

The Iowa Collector

Official Publication of the
Iowa Numismatic Association

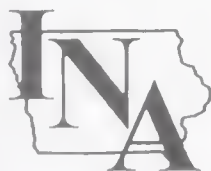


*The Iowa Numismatic Association
Established in 1938*

In This Issue

Half Dollar Type Sets

By Mark Benvenuto



**Fall & Winter 2016
Volume 57 Number 3**

<http://ina.anacclubs.org>



**IOWA
NUMISMATIC
ASSOCIATION'S**

***78th Annual
COIN SHOW & CONVENTION***

October 8th - 9th, 2016

Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

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For Information:

John Jackson

(712) 274-9195

The Iowa Collector

Official Publication / Iowa Numismatic Association

Volume 57, Number 3

September 2016

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By Mark Benvenuto

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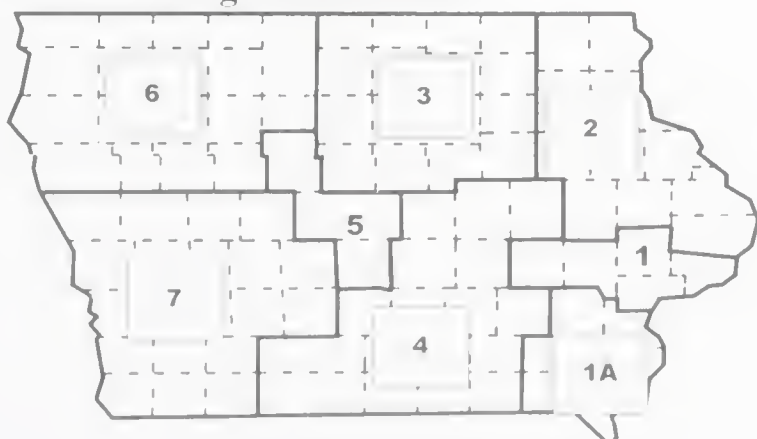
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Regional Districts



The Iowa Numismatic Association Officers



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(515) 573-3033



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Open

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Denny Ross 7079 189th St., Albia, IA 52531-8771
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From the Editor

Would you like to see news of your club's activities covered in *The Iowa Collector*? The editor welcomes news of club happenings in the *Iowa Numismatic Associations* region. Send any information on your upcoming coin show, election of new officers and other club news and articles, prepared by club members, to the Editor. Include any photographs with your article, to make your story more interesting.

Send to: Editor, *The Iowa Collector*
7079 189th Street
Albia, IA 52531-8771

Presidents Message

John Jackson



August 1st and as usual I am behind on my work which includes this letter. 2016 has seen many ups and downs in Iowa we have had some wonderful coins shows and events all over the state and unfortunately we have lost some wonderful friends as time takes its toll I would like all of you to take a moment and remember the great friends and mentors that have given so much of their time and effort to support this hobby and teach new collectors the joy of collecting and maybe it will help us all to carry the torch for the future of the INA

As far as the coin market goes precious metals are moving up and the collector market may have found the bottom level of pricing and hopefully will start to turn upward in the months to follow.

When you read this the school year will be starting and the busy fall schedule will commence to cut into what little free time we have but I hope everyone can find time to attend the local shows and I look forward to seeing you all in Sioux City in October at the state convention.

This is another election year and my time as president will end way to soon. I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve you and the support of the board members in all our endeavors this year. I look forward to helping the new president and board in any way I can

Good luck to all the home town teams as the new school years starts and when you go to the game sort out a few old coins to spend and maybe if we all do this together we will start a whole new class of collectors on the road to a lifetime of fun.

Thanks for the help

See you in Sioux city!!

INA President,

John Jackson



From The Secretary's Desk

Beverly Ashton



Hello from Fort Dodge. As I am writing this summer is winding down with everyone getting ready for back to school. I really don't understand where time goes. Does that mean I'm getting older or is it only seeming to be flying by since I have so many things to do? I'll go with the second choice for now.

This year, 2016, we vote on a new board. Ballots should be in your hands already. Please be sure to get those back to me before the deadline listed on the ballot. The new board will be announced at the INA Show & Convention in Sioux city October 8-9. Please vote. I know this ballot should be a lot easier than our nation's election coming up later this fall. Although I'll sure be glad when that one is done.

What are the markets doing? Right now gold spot is around \$1,330. With silver about \$20.30. Silver finally made it over \$20! And with gold over \$1,300 maybe they'll be staying up there for awhile.

See you at the shows.....

Beverly Ashton
Secretary/Treasurer

INA Board and Membership Meeting Dates

The INA officers hold three board meetings each year and one open membership meeting. These meetings are held in conjunction with a coin show. The annual board meeting is held during the INA's Annual Coin Show & Convention which is hosted by a different Coin Club each year. The INA's officers board meeting is held the evening of the first day of the INA coin show and the open membership meeting is conducted on the morning of the second day of the INA coin show.

Regular INA Board meetings:

February 27, 2016 at Coin-a-Rama, Nevada, Iowa

July 9, 2016 at Central Iowa Coin & Stamp Expo, Altoona, Iowa

October 8, 2016 at Annual INA Show, Sioux City, Iowa

October 9, 2016 Open membership meeting, Sioux City, Iowa

President John Jackson called the meeting to order. The minutes were read. Denny Ross motioned they be accepted. Dean Parr seconded and they were approved. The treasurer's report was given with a balance of \$10,498.93 in the general fund. Denny Motioned the report be accepted. Dean seconded and it was approved.

Beverly Ashton told the board of a nice thank-you note received from Doc Carberry, Harry Peters & Scott Nichols families on flowers/plants sent to their funerals. Bev also noted that Bob Simon & his wife gave the INA a check as a memorial for some of our dearly departed. The treasury also received a refund from Adventureland from last year's show.

Should the INA be slabbing some of its coins? This probably would be a good idea for some of our better items. John brought us up to date on the upcoming INA show in Sioux City. Central States would like to come and do a seminar on the Friday before the show. There would be a Friday set-up time for the dealers. Dave Stark will do a seminar on Saturday at 1:00. Denny needs a schedule of events. Will there be a church service? We will also need a list of Motels in the area.

We discussed the ballot and who we could fill in for the empty spots. The ballot was decided on.

Chris Seuntjens has been looking into where we would be able to the have a show in 2017. He had two possible places that we discussed the particulars about both.

Dean told us there is a link on the INA web site about Central States Seminars and the registration information.

Denny motioned we adjourn. Don McCulloch seconded and we adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Ashton
Secretary/Treasure

Members present: Denny Ross, John Jackson, Sam Ashton, Chris Seuntjens, Bev Ashton, Dean Parr, Dave Stark, Brian Sparks, Robert Simon Gary Stasko & Don McCulloch

From The Editors Desk



Denny Ross

Summer is finally winding down and fall is beginning to move in, and we have several great fall coin shows to look forward to.

We have had some sad news over these past few months with the passing of several of our member dealers. Included in this issue of 'The Collector' are two memorials to the most recent losses to family and friends. We are going to greatly miss each of those who have left us.

I would like to remind all of the coin clubs who conduct coin shows in Iowa to be sure and check in with John Jackson, the INA's Coin Show Coordinator, and discuss your show dates with him so that your show date isn't in conflict with another show. Sometimes it is difficult to get a venue date when you want it so try to be flexible in scheduling your show.

It's election time for new INA officers this year. You should have received your ballots by now. Be sure and place your votes for those you would like to see on the INA board of governors, and get them sent in to the INA Secretary as soon as possible.

The annual INA State Convention and coin Show is being held in Sioux City October 8 - 9 this year and is just a few weeks away. If at all possible try to attend this great event and enjoy the activities and seminars.

I want to thank the outgoing INA board members for all of their tireless efforts and time in maintaining the quality and integrity of our great organization. I am looking forward to working with all of the newly elected board members.

Looking forward to seeing you at the up-coming shows.

Denny Ross

Editor: The Iowa Collector

Starting Balance	INA Regular	ICIA Fund
	\$10,082.36	0.00
Receipts		
Dues	164.00	
Ads	1,160.00	
Interest	<u>1.94</u>	
	1,325.94	
Expenses		
Returned Collectors & Postage	8.68	
Ottumwa Printing Collector	836.49	
Scott Nichols Flowers	<u>64.20</u>	
	909.37	
Current Balances	10,498.93	0.00
Checking	8,115.75	
Savings	2,343.18	0.00
Cash	<u>40.00</u>	
	10,498.93	<u>0.00</u>

INA Bylaws

The Bylaws can be viewed on the INA website: <http://inaanaclubs.org>
 A white copy, of the bylaws, can be obtained by contacting INA
 Secretary Beverly Ashton, 615 Central Avenue, Fort Dodge, IA 50501

SEMINAR SPEAKERS

- Tom Robertson (319) 351-2512 tdrobby@yahoo.com
Programs on - Seated Liberty series: ½ dime, dimes, quarters half dollars & seated dollars..
- Brian Fanton (319) 294-4377
Programs on - Grading, Boy and Girl Scout merit badge programs Slabbing, The 'Art of coin collecting' and general numismatic topics.
- Denny Ross.....(641) 932-2731 den72ny@gmail.com
Program on - Lincoln cents 1909 thru 1958.
- Dean Parr (319) 366-0552 drparr@mchsi.com
Programs on - Foreign coins & World paper money.
- Lee Roe(563) 852-3517 hilltopcoin@netins.net
Programs on - Buying and selling coin collections. Slabbing.
- Steve Feller.....(319) 393-7052 sfeller@coe.edu
Programs on - POW Scrip, WW II Concentration Camp money, Civil War money, The New Orleans mint, Ancient coins, and other topics.

SHOW COORDINATOR

- John Jackson (712) 274-9195 jjcoin1@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

- Chris Seuntjens.....(515) 251-4031 chris@christophersjewelry.com

WEBMASTER

- Dean Parr (319) 366-0552 drparr@mchsi.com

When and where Coin Clubs Meet

Ames ----- Last Wednesday, Senior Citizens Center, 7:00 PM Scott Nichols
@ (515) 232-9222

Burlington ----- Fourth Tuesday, No meeting in Dec., Burlington Public
Library, 210 Court St., 5:30 PM, Clarence Mitchell @ (319) 752-6052

Cedar Rapids ----- Third Wednesday, 7:30 PM, Rockwell Main Plant
Cafeteria, 35th St. N. E., Bob Johnson @ (319) 573-6652

Clarion - Fourth Thursday, Pizza Ranch on Main St, 7:00 PM, Boyd LaRue
@ (515) 460-5681 or Bill Soesbe @ (515) 532-2155

Decorah ----- First Tuesday, V. F. W. Building basement, 104 State St 7:30
PM, Dave Sanderson @ (563) 568-2371

Dubuque ----- First Thursday, A&W-OKY DOKY, 1st & Locust St.
Upstairs at 7:00 PM Neil Aitchison @ (563) 590-9623

Des Moines -- First Tuesday, St. Marks Episcopal Church, 3120 E 24th, 7:00
PM, Larry Carlberg @ (515) 251-4031

Fort Dodge ----- Second Thursday, ICCC East Campus, 7:00 PM, Sam
Ashton @ (515) 573-3033

Glenwood Coin Club - Second Thursday, Glenwood Coin Shop, 13 North
Vine Street, Suite 2, 7:00 PM, Tom Flynn (712) 527-4321

Grinnell ----- Second Monday, Community Center (Senior Citizens Room)
7:30 PM, George Fowler @ (641) 236-3549

Hiawatha ----- Fourth Wednesday (except June & July), Hiawatha Library
150 W Willman St. (or the shop) 7:00 PM, Brian Fanton @ (319) 294-4377

Keokuk ----- Third Thursday every month, Keokuk Public Library, 210
North 5th Street 7:00 PM, Tom Gardner @ (319) 524-7366

Old Capitol (Iowa City) ----- Second Tuesday, Veteran's Administration
Hospital (Third floor cafeteria), Hwy 6, 7:00 PM Tom Robertson @
(319) 351-2512

Oskaloosa --- Second Thursday each month, 103 High Avenue, 7:30 PM
Clarence Mekee @ (641) 672-2710 Winter & Spring 2016

Ottumwa - Fourth Tuesday, Albia Road Baptist Church, 1601 Albia Road (Basement), 7:00 PM, Kermit Uhde (641) 682-0525

Port City (Muscatine) - Fourth Tuesday (Dec meeting 3rd Tue), Musco Lighting, 2107 Stewart Rd., Muscatine 7 PM, Jim Burr (563) 262-9313

Quad City (Moline, IL) - Third Thursday, Calvary Lutheran Church, Avenue of the Cities and 29th St, 7:00 PM, Jeff Struve (309) 737-0206

Siouxland (Sioux City) - First Tuesday, First United Methodist Church, 1915 Nebraska Street, 7:00 PM, John Jackson (a) (712) 274-9195

Storm Lake - Second Tuesday, Chamber of Commerce Bldg., 119 West 6th Street, 7:00 PM, Russ Post (a) (712) 284-2110

Wadena - Third Thursday, Historical Center, West Union, IA, 7:30 PM, Dr. James E. Ralls (a) (319) 283-4440

Waterloo Cedar Falls - Second Tuesday, Waterloo Arts & Rec. Center, First & Commercial Streets, 7:00 PM, Dennis Bracken (a) (319) 231-8385

Dear I.N.A. Member

The 2016 year is here. We encourage you to support the I.N.A. with your ad in The Collector. The rates are.

Full Page	\$100.00	Half Page	\$60.00
	Quarter Page	\$30.00	

Ad rates for private shows will be prorated from the normal yearly advertising rates.

Full page ads for INA Coin Clubs are \$10.00. Non INA Coin Clubs are \$25.00.

There are 3 issues of our deluxe publication, with a 4th issue when needed. Anyone would be proud to have their ad in "The Collector". We try to get articles and information for the good of our members. We encourage everyone to write an article concerning numismatic information which might help other collectors, especially our new members.

Thank you for your sponsorship!

*Chris Seuntjens
3427 Merle Hay Rd.,
Des Moines, IA 50310*

**The Iowa Collector is published 3 times a year
Publication dates:
January, May, & September**

2016 Coin Show Calendar

Sept 18 Monthly Collectors Show - Hilton Garden Inn, 2702 Mid America Drive, Council Bluffs, IA (9-3) Ed Bishop (407) 720-3355

Sept 24 Heartland Coin & Stamp Show - Bridge View Center, 102 Church Street, Ottumwa, IA (9-4) Denny Ross (641) 932-2731

Sept 24 Clarion Fall Show - Clarion High School, 111 Willow Drive, Clarion, IA. (9-4) Boyd LaRue (515) 460-5681

Oct 8-9 INA 78th Annual Coin Show And Convention - Sioux City Convention Center, 801 Fourth Street Sioux City, IA John Jackson (712) 274-9195

Oct 15 Token Collectors Breakfast - Ox Yoke Inn, 4420 220th Trail Amma, IA Time 7:30 AM Tom Robertson (319) 541-5679

Oct 16 Tri-State Coin Show - Diamond Joe's Casino, 302 Bell Street, Dubuque, IA (9-4) Richard Hilard (563) 557-7210

Oct 16 Monthly Collectors Show - Hilton Garden Inn, 2702 Mid America Drive, Council, IA (9-3) Ed Bishop (407) 720-3355

Nov 20 Monthly Collector Show - Hilton Garden Inn, 2702 Mid America Drive, Council Bluffs, IA (9-3) Ed Bishop (407) 720-3355

Dec 11 Old Capitol Coin Club Show - Clarion Hotel, I-80 & Hwy 1 (exit 246) Iowa City, IA (9-4) Alice Grimm (319) 331-8576

Dec 18 Monthly Collector Show - Hilton Garden Inn, 2702 Mid America Drive, Council Bluffs, IA (9-3) Ed Bishop (407) 720-3355

Annual INA Coin Show & Convention

October 8 -9, 2016
Sioux City Convention Center
801 4th Street
Sioux City Iowa

Join the Iowa Numismatic Association

Membership

Any person interested in numismatics, over 18 years of age, of good moral character may become a member upon recommendation of the membership committee. Dues are \$10.00 per year.

Object

The object of this corporation shall be to;

Encourage and promote the science of numismatics.

Cultivate fraternal relationships among coin collectors and students.

Foster the interest of youth in the subject.

Encourage and assist new collectors.

Stimulate and advance affiliations between our associations and kindred organizations in the United States and foreign countries.

Acquire and disseminate numismatic knowledge.

Generally represent numismatic interests throughout the State of Iowa.

Junior members

Any person between the ages of 0 and 18 years old and sponsored by a senior member may be considered for junior membership. Junior members may not hold office, but may vote for elective offices. Dues to be \$2.00 per year.

Officers

Officers are elected every two years by membership vote, by mail ballot, and take office at the annual convention following election. Officers consist of 16 members, including the President, the First and Second Vice Presidents, the Secretary/Treasurer, the immediate Past-President, and 11 Directors.

The annual membership meeting is held each year at the Iowa Numismatic Associations Annual Convention held in the fall.

The Iowa Collector, the official bulletin, is published three times each year and sent to each member. The I.N.A., upon request, will help the heirs of any member in good standing find a qualified person or persons, in his area, to appraise an estate.

For further information about the I.N.A. contact any member, director or officer. An application has been enclosed with this issue of The Iowa Collector. To join fill it in and send it along with your check to:

Beverly Ashton
615 Central Avenue
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(515) 573-3033

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE IOWA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

I hereby make application for membership in the "IOWA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION", subject to the provisions of its Articles of Incorporation and By-laws.

Send this application together with \$10.00 for the current years dues
Young applicants dues are \$2.00 per year until the age eighteen.

Note: The I.N.A. year runs from January 1st to January 1st

Date _____

Applicants Name (please print)

Mailing address

E-mail address _____

Phone # _____

City

State _____

Zip Code _____

Date and Year of Birth

Signature of Applicant

Signature of Proposer

I.N.A. or A.N.A. Number _____

For use of Secretary/Treasurer

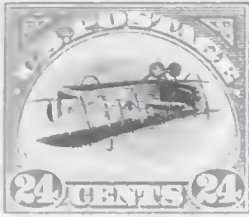
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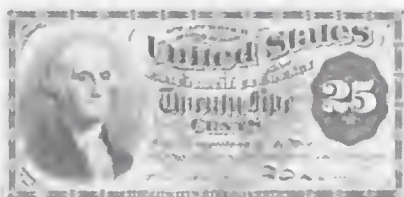
CLARION IOWA COIN CLUB PRESENTS

Clarion "Fall" Show

Saturday September 24, 2016

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Coins
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1111 Willow Dr.
Clarion, Iowa 50525

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Contact:

Boyd LaRue (515) 460-5681

Tables: 1 - \$20, 2 - \$35, 3 - \$50

How many different varieties are there of the 1913 Buffalo nickel?

A. 1

C. 2

B. 3

D. 6

In what year was the first proof Buffalo nickel Minted?

A. 1931

C. 1936

B. 1925

D. 1913

Answers to above inside back page

The purpose of the INA is to bring together those persons interested in the hobby of collecting coins. To encourage active participation in Numismatics. To encourage the principles of fair dealing. To study the history of the world through the art of coin, currency and exonomia. To provide a forum for Iowa numismatists to share their interests and knowledge with prospective new collectors.



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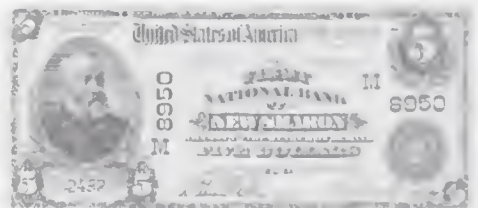
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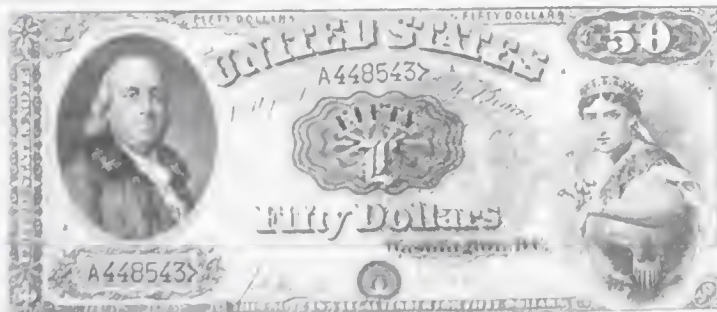
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Half dollar Type Sets-How Far Back Can We Go?

By Mark Benvenuto

There was a lot of hype two years back when our Kennedy fifty-cent piece turned fifty. Hopefully we all remember the gold half dollars, the hupe that swirled around them, the general buying frenzy that accompanied this newest offering from the Mint. Well, that dust has settled a bit, and that means now might prove to be a very good time to look back at half dollars in general, and see if any neat collecting possibilities exist for this, arguably our least used coin.

Perhaps the easiest collecting possibility for half dollars is some sort of type set. Let so backward from the present and determine if a type set is something a person might reasonably assemble.



A gold Kennedy? The first coin we might want to add to a type set of halves is one of 2014 gold Kennedy half dollars - or not. Some of us love this new entry, and some of us think is nothing more than a marketing gimmick. If you are inclined to think it's a gimmick, well let's move on.

A proof silver Kennedy? In 1992 the Mint got back into the business of putting silver into Kennedy half dollars, wrapping them all up in a proof set package, and seeing if folks wanted them. We did. Production has been well over a half million proof sets each year in that time frame, and that means prices are very good today.

We can take a brief moment and allow ourselves a small diversion here, to realize that in 2017 the silver proof Kennedy's will themselves be having a silver anniversary. It's hard to imagine that the Mint will produce a silver coin commemorating silver being put back in a coin but it might just turn out that something like a 1992 - 2017 double date will appear on the silver proofs to commemorate 25 years of them. Yet even if the fine folks at the Mint let this date slide, it's worth knowing that there is a relatively easy collection of proof Kennedy fifty-cent pieces to assemble.



The 1964 proof Kennedy. While there are plenty of silver proof half dollars from which to choose right now, from 1965 to 1991 it must have seemed like the 1964 Kennedy half was the last gasp in a long, proud tradition of silver coinage. A proof 1964 can be expensive today, if a person shoots for the stars and a grade of proof 69. But a proof 65 specimen is still quite affordable.



A proof Franklin. The Franklin half dollar series is a relatively short one, spanning only 16 years. But proof coins exist for every date from 1950 up until the end in 1963. What makes these fascinating is how what we might call the "commonness" of proofs increased with time. There were only 51,386 made in 1950. But the million mark was surpassed in 1957, and the final three years saw more than 3 million proofs annually. The proofs of these later years are available today for less than \$50 each.



A proof Walking Liberty half. The Walking Liberty half dollars series spans a longer range than the Franklin halves, yet there were only seven years that saw proof coins produced. Their numbers are tiny when compared to the just-mentioned Franklins, and that means their prices are higher. But "higher" does not mean impossible: a person can land a proof Walker if they are patient. Plus, there are plenty of non-proofs - coins in grades like MS-65 - that won't flatten a wallet, as each costs about \$100 or \$125.



A high end Barber half. If a person takes the time to look through any of the major prices list, it becomes evident that there are some proof Barber halves out there - and it is also evident that they are expensive pieces. Since it's fair to say many collectors don't drop thousands of dollars on a single coin, even if it is a proof, this might be the point where we step down a bit, at least in terms of grade, and look for an EF or AU coin.



Mr. Gobrecht's Seated Liberty. Like the Barber halves, there is quite a line up of proof Seated Liberty half dollars listed in a couple of the big, national price lists. Any of them is going to cost a few thousand dollars. But again, like the Barber, there are plenty of common date Seated Liberty halves that ring in at about \$200 - 300 in grades like EF and AU. That's not bad for a fifty cent piece that is at least 125 years old.

A worthwhile side note when considering a Seated Liberty half dollar is that this series includes all half dollars that were minted at the branch in Carson City. And since the output in the 3 years 1875 - 1877 was very high, it means that for collectors today one of these three "CC" marked coins may be within reach. It's certainly worth considering.

A lightly circulated Capped Bust. Prior to the Seated Liberty design, the Capped Bust halves were the biggest silver coins in the nation for a few



decades. President Jefferson had suspended silver dollar production in 1804, and there would be no more until 1836. That translated into bigger mintage totals than might have been when it came to fifty-cent pieces - and some lower prices for us today. Once again, there are some of the more common Capped Bust halves a person could add to a collection for only a few hundred dollars.

Wishful thinking and the earliest halves. Most collectors know that the Draped Bust halves and Flowing Hair halves before them are pretty much the stuff of dreams. Both series are beautiful, but both were produced in small enough numbers annually that even worn specimens are costly today. Here might be the spot to give a deep sigh and move on.

Overall? Well, it looks like a fairly complete type set collection of half dollars might be something we can construct without an enormous effort or an enormous cost.

Good luck to any and all of us who take the challenge.



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Seminar:	1:00 pm
Bourse closes	5:00 pm
IINA Board Meeting	5:30 pm

Sunday October 9th

Membership Breakfast Room 2	7:00 am
Bourse Open to Dealers	8:00 am
Bourse open to Public	9:00 am
Bourse closes	
4:00pm	

Educational Seminars

Saturday: Room 2 1:00 pm
Speaker: David Stark
Topic: Large Cents

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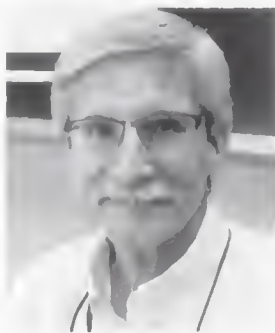
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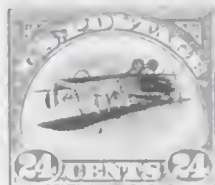
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In Memory



Scott Harry Nichols
September 30, 1955 - May 12, 2016

Scott graduated from Ames High School in 1973 where he pole vaulted and ran cross country. He graduated with a business degree from Mankato State University in 1977 where he also pole vaulted. On May 2, 1981, he married his sweetheart, Denise Ann Henderson from Randall. Most of his life, he was a loan officer and a rare coin dealer (numismatist). He owned Chester's Coins on Main Street in Ames for the last 12 years, which will remain open under the management of his son Kirk.

Scott was an officer and member of the Ames Coin Club for 20 years, past president and life member of the Iowa Numismatic Association, and member of the American Numismatic Association for 25 years. Additionally, he was the bourse chairman of the Annual Ames Coin Club Show in Nevada during that time.



Myron Joseph "Flick" Hittenmiller
June 21, 1923 - May 6, 2016

Myron was an avid coin collector since childhood. He attended his first coin show in Dubuque in 1949 and after retirement from the Postal Service eventually open a coin shop there and later in Manchester. He belonged to several surrounding coin clubs in Iowa. Some of his other hobbies were bowling, for which he was inducted into Dyersville Bowling Hall of Fame. He also managed the Dyersville Whitehawks in 1952 - 1953 and coached the Little League Braves. He was very active with the Dyersville Commercial Club. He was a 70 year member of American Legion Post 137. Myron was also a life member of the Iowa Numismatic Association.

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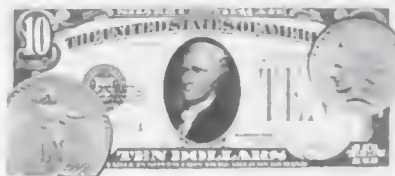
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PCGS Coin Facts



Obverse of 1916-D Buffalo Nickel Reverse of 1916-D Buffalo Nickel
Q. David Bowers (edited and updated by Mike Sherman): In 1913 the Liberty Head nickel, which had remained in service since 1883 was replaced by a new design, the so-called Buffalo (more properly, the Indian) nickel by James E. Fraser, a well-known sculptor. The obverse portrait was modeled from life by studying three Indian models, while the reverse was styled from a bison, popularly called a "buffalo," at the Bronx Zoo

The obverse depicts the head of an Indian facing right, with LIBERTY in small letters at the upper right edge, and the date at the lower left. The reverse shows a bison standing on a raised mound, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and E PLURIBUS UNUM above, and FIVE CENTS on a mound below.

It was found that the relief of the mound caused the inscription in that area to wear quickly, so the bottom part of the reverse was subsequently redesigned, creating the so-called Type II. The Type I is distinguished by the presence of a mound with FIVE CENTS inscribed on it, as noted. Production of business strikes was accomplished at Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco, with Philadelphia registering by far the largest mintage. At Philadelphia, 1,250 Matte Proof examples were made for collectors.

Examples of the 1913 Type I Buffalo nickel are readily available in all grades from About Good to Uncirculated. Superb Uncirculated coins are scarce, although not rare. Matte Proofs have survived in relatively few numbers, and of the 1,250 minted, probably not more than a few hundred still exist. As certain business strikes closely resemble Matte Proofs, care is to be taken when buying one of these.

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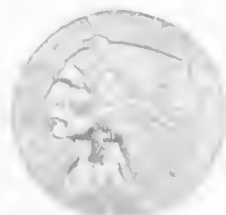
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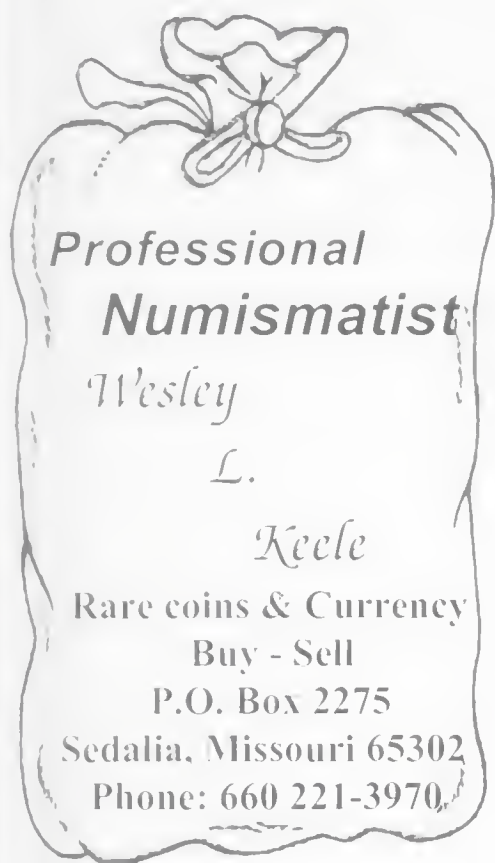
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